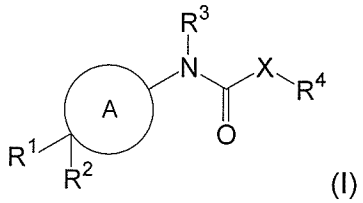
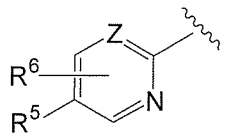
Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 represents



;

R^5 represents a hydroxy group;

R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, ~~or~~ an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or, when Z represents a carbon atom and R^6 is ortho to Z, R^6 and Z taken together may form a fused phenyl group or a saturated or partially unsaturated cyclic ring having from 4 to 7 carbon atoms;

Z represents a carbon atom;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms:

A represents a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkylene group having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms, or an heterocyclic group having from 4 to 8 atoms which consists of at least one carbon atom and from 1 to 2 nitrogen atoms wherein the substituent is at least one group selected from alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or oxo groups with the proviso that A is not a pyrazolyl group;

X represents a covalent bond, an alkylene group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkenylene group having from 2 to 3 carbon atoms, a heteroalkylene group having from 2 to 3 atoms, wherein one of said atoms is replaced by a sulfur atom, an oxygen atom, imino, imino substituted with an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a sulfonyl group, a cycloalkylene group having from 3 to 10 carbon atoms or a heterocyclic group having from 4 to 10 atoms;

R^4 represents an aryl group having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms, a heteroaryl group having from 5 to 10 atoms;
said alkylene groups, alkenylene groups, heteroalkylene groups, cycloalkylene groups and heterocyclic groups are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents α;
said aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and said heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents β;
said substituents α are selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cyano groups, alkanoylamino groups having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, oxo groups or aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms defined above;
said substituents β are selected from the atom consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkylthio groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanoyl groups having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, hydroxy groups, cyano groups, aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms defined above or heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms defined above;
with the proviso that said aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and said heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms in said substituents α and β are not substituted by an aryl group having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms or heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein A represents a cyclohexyl group,

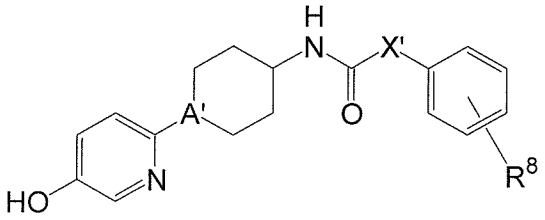
a cyclohexenyl group or a piperidinyl group.

7. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein A represents a cyclohexyl group.

8. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein X represents an alkylene group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, a heteroalkylene group having from 2 to 3 atoms, wherein one of said atoms is replaced by a sulfur atom or an oxygen atom.

9. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein X represents an alkylene group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms or a heteroalkylene group having from 2 to 3 atoms, wherein one of said atoms is replaced by a sulfur atom.

10. (Original) A compound of formula (Ia)



(Ia)

wherein

A' represents CH, C(OH), or N;

X' represents ethylene, oxymethylene, methyleneoxy, or methylenethio; and

R^8 represents one or two groups independently selected from hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and halogen atoms or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^4 represents a phenyl group, optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms or alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

12. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1 selected from:

N-[*cis*-4-Hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-3-phenylpropanamide

hydrochloride;
3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl] propanamide;
N-[*cis*-4-Hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide;
N-[*trans*-4-(5-Hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-3-phenylpropanamide hydrochloride;
N-[*trans*-4-(5-Hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide hydrochloride;
3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
N-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-3-(4-methylphenyl)propanamide;
3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
N-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-2-(phenylthio)acetamide;
3-(4-ethylphenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
3-(4-chlorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
3-(4-methylphenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-*N*-methylpropanamide;
N-[4-(5-Hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohex-3-en-1-yl]-3-phenylpropanamide;
2-fluorobenzyl;
[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]methylcarbamate;
benzyl [*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]methylcarbamate;
3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[1-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide; and
N-[1-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-3-(4-methylphenyl)propanamide;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of pain, in a mammalian subject, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of disease conditions caused by overactivation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of pain, in a mammalian subject, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.